

AGRICULTURE

This Department is Edited by Prof. J. C. Hogenson, of the Agricultural College.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PROPER MANAGEMENT.

By Prof. J. W. Sanborn of New Hampshire.

The measure of the production of an agricultural people is never the fertility of the soil, but the fertility of the intellect of those who till that soil. We should not live as guests of nature. Nature never meant that man should lean on her and repels it by dwarfing him as an intellectual force and in the measure of his living. I have yet to learn of a people living on a very fertile soil who have not in the end suffered by that very fertility.

The second element of importance in the management of a farm is the permanency of the family on the farm. No agriculture will be at its best, and no state at its greatest for a generation, or generations, in whose farm families do not root back the soil held, that does not bud in present occupancy and in expectation to flower in generations to come.

Something of the life of the fathers is in the homes and improvements of the farm, and the spirit of their encouragement is at the home portals and hovers around the family fire-side. No other occupation gives any security for family permanency and the certainty of social equality, of physical, moral and intellectual vigor and of material independence. Anchor the family to the soil and in this immortality in the family line find the encouragement for permanent improvements. Every drain, all increment of fertility and of crop yields, better buildings, landscape improvements bordering around them, the creation of a home of refinement are but the best forms of heritage. Such a farm still compels action, while inherited money is an opiate to the energies.

The camp or tent farmer, who values the farm for only what he can extort for use in the pleasure of a retired life in town is not a constructive farmer, a despoiler of land and buildings. He is an enemy to the higher interests of society and of his family. The tenant system now coming into vogue is the menace of west-

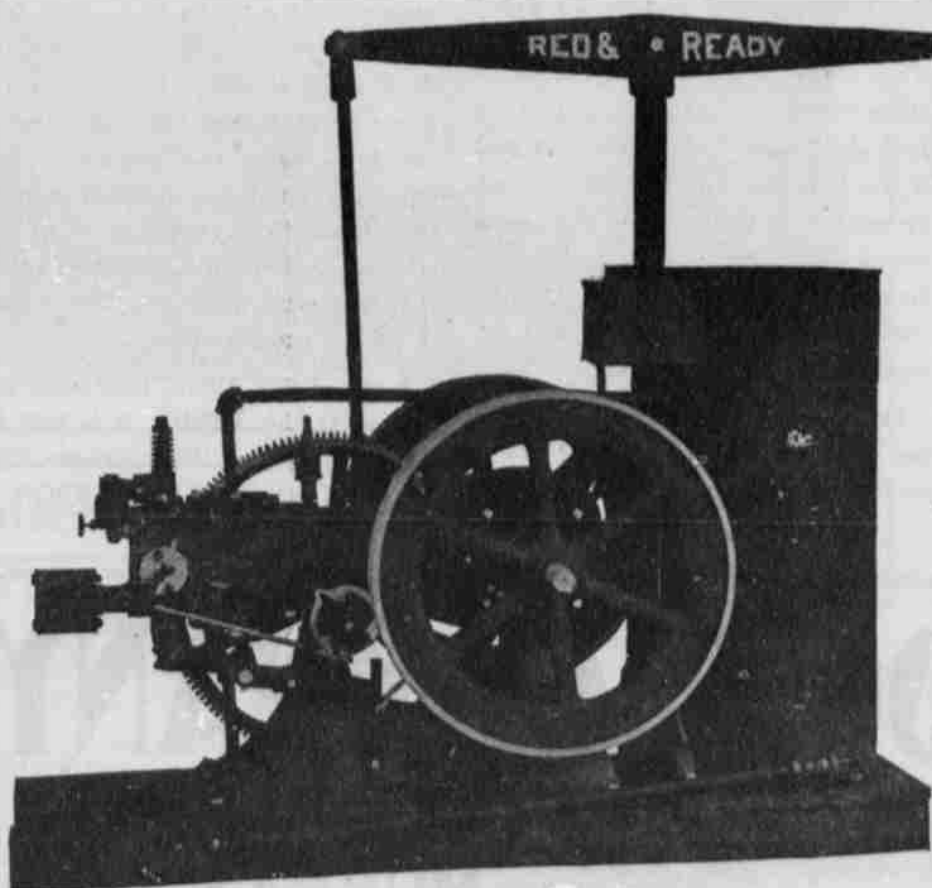
ern agriculture. The tenant is not the stuff out of which evolves a great agriculture, and a great state as incentive is wanting. In my own farm has been absorbed much of the lives of my ancestors back to the woods from which one of them wrung it. It is to memory dear. Sentiment holds me to it, and out of it I am determined to evolve a farm in scope and character adequate to maintain a sturdy and cultivated race of men and women. I know of no way to serve the family and the state better.

Our farm management should align itself up to the very hair with all those modern forces and their results that characterize the twentieth century. What especially marks the industrial life of this century? Two things—its depth and breadth. Science and art in other industries exhaust themselves in the effort to secure all the possibilities that lie in each unit handled, and to handle all the units possible. Witness the great economies introduced into the manufacturing enterprises and the saving of that which but yesterday was waste. The profit per unit turned out is today less than ever before in his-

tory, yet great profits and a high or costly plane of living is secured through the vast volume of units turned out. Scanning the decades, we find that the arts resting on the free use of mechanism are selling their products at constantly decreasing costs, amounting in many cases to but a mere fraction of old-time hand craft rates. On our part as farmers, in an age of great captains of industry, we follow the bugle notes of small farming, and are ever selling crops at advancing rates. We buy for less, sell at higher rates and complain that farming does not pay. Our boys seek the town, both in the east and the west, for broader opportunities. These boys will not and should not remain on the farm until it can be made to yield the cultivated living secured by the better class of industrialists of our day and find in the farm opportunities for mental activity and recognition common to those industries requiring intelligence and capital.

When thirteen—nearly fourteen—years ago my father's hands began to drop by his side, I had to decide

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